

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 00464 251240Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 SP-02
/024 W

-----251255Z 036371 /47

R 251057Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9350

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 464

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT SHUM YO
SUBJ: SEIZURE OF BAROVIC PASSPORT

REF: STATE 15109

1. EMBOFFS MET BAROVIC (NOT BOROVAR) AND DAUGHTER LAST WEEK.
HER PASSPORT HAD BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT EXPLANATION BY POLICE
DEC 23. FAILURE TO RETURN IT CAUSED HER TO LOSE JOB
SHE HAD ARRANGED IN PARIS TO BEGIN JAN 15. SHE IS ALSO
MISSING START OF UNIVERSITY COURSES IN PARIS.

2. NEITHER KNEW WHY PASSPORT HAD BEEN TAKEN. BAROVIC SAID
THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED HIS OWN PASSPORT TO THE AUTHORITIES FOR
SOME ROUTINE PURPOSE SHORTLY BEFORE AND IT HAD BEEN RETURNED
WITH NO DIFFICULTY.

2. A BELGIAN DIPLOMAT HERE WHO KNOWS THE BAROVICS BELIEVES
THAT THE DAUGHTER'S PASSPORT MAY HAVE BEEN SEIZED BECAUSE OF
HER OWN OUTSPOKEN CONCERN FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND
IN PARTICULAR HER OUTBURST IN THE COURTROOM DURING THE TRIAL
OF COMINFORMIST LEADER VLADO DAPCEVIC. SHE PROTESTED
WHEN THE JUDGE TRIED TO KEEP DAPCEVIC FROM SPEAKING.
AND SHE HAS CLAIMED TO ALL WHO WILL LISTEN BOTH HERE
AND IN PARIS THAT THERE IS MORE REPRESSION IN YUGOSLAVIA
THAN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 00464 251240Z

3. BAROVIC HAS SOUGHT RETURN OF THE PASSPORT THROUGH
OFFICIAL CHANNELS THUS FAR BUT HE SAID THAT HE WILL TAKE
STRONGER MEASURES (PRESUMABLY INFORMING THE WESTERN PRESS
WITH WHOM HE IS IN TOUCH FREQUENTLY) IF IT IS NOT RETURNED
BY FEBRUARY.

4. BAROVIC TOLD EMBOFF THAT PASSPORTS ARE ROUTINELY SEIZED UNDER THE LAW IN ORDER TO PREVENT INDICTED CRIMINALS FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY AND IN OTHER SUCH CLEAR-CUT NON-POLITICAL CASES. HE SAID THEY CAN ALSO BE SEIZED WITHOUT EXPLANATION UNDER THE LAW IN POLITICAL CASES, AS HAPPENED TO HIS DAUGHTER.

5. INVITATION BY EMBOFFS FOR BAROVIC TO HAVE LUNCH WAS EXTENDED WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF THE PASSPORT SEIZURE. BAROVIC ACCEPTED READILY AND INVITED EMBOFFS TO HIS HOUSE FOR COFFEE AFTERWARD. WE BELIEVE HE IS BEST JUDGE OF THE HELPFULNESS OF EMBASSY CONTACTS TO HIM. THEY MAY EVEN BE A FORM OF PROTECTION. THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF SURVEILLANCE.
YORK

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Message Attributes

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